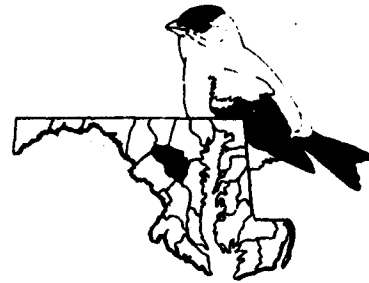




Vol 14, No 1
Sept-Oct 1985

Howard

A Chapter of the
Maryland Ornithological Society



WELCOME! NEW MEMBERSHIP YEAR BEGINS SEPTEMBER 1

The Howard Bird Club invites you to renew or begin your membership for the year September 1, 1985-August 31, 1986. A membership form is attached to this newsletter. Please complete it and return it to the treasurer Donald Randle, 6424 Lochridge Rd., Columbia, MD 21044. Although our major emphasis is birds, we share an interest in many aspects of the natural world. Our dues are modest and stable. Members receive the state quarterly journal, the state newsletter, and the local chapter newsletter. A full schedule of programs and field trips is planned along with workshops and special events. The "bookstore" (available at meetings and seed sales) sells items at better than retail prices. Your suggestions are appreciated and volunteers are always welcome. Feel free to call any of the officers or committee chairmen listed below.

If you are new to birding or to Howard County, we are especially anxious to help you. The Board of Directors is interested in knowing if there is a need for a beginning birding program or workshop. If you would find such a program helpful, please contact Education Committee head Linda Harsy 489-5131 after 6:00 p.m. or drop her a postcard at 16236 Compromise Court, Mt. Airy, MD 21771. Let her know your needs and the most convenient times.



OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN FOR 1985-1986

President - John Clegg, 730-4362
V-President - Linda Harsy, 489-5131
Secretary - Maud Banks, 596-4131
Treasurer - Don Randle, 531-6296

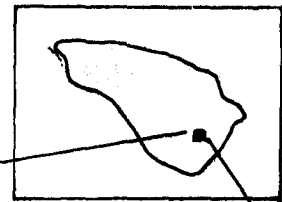
State Directors
Jane Farrell, 596-6350
Eva Sunell, 995-0029
Paul Zucker, 681-9005

Bookstore - Steve Harsy, 489-5131
Field Trips - Chris Ludwig, 796-8373
Programs - Eileen Landry, 461-3537
Martha Chestem, 730-1527
Conservation - Bob Solem, 725-5037
Education - Linda Harsy, 489-5131
Membership Services - Eileen Clegg,
730-4362
Newsletter/Records - Jo Solem,
725-5037

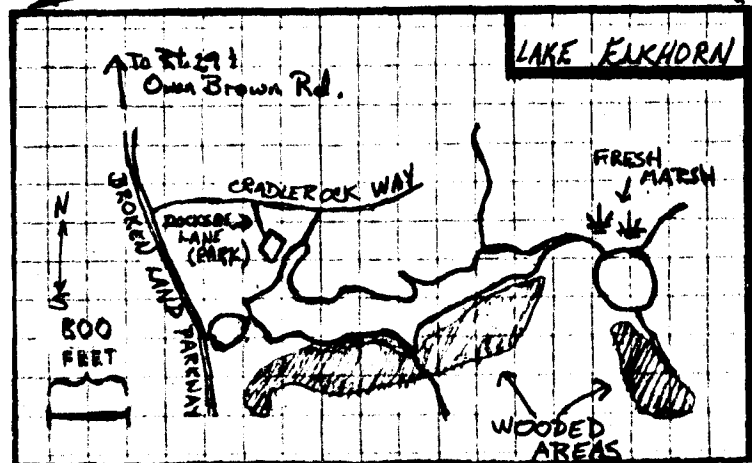
PICKUP FOR THE FIRST OF TWO HOWARD BIRD CLUB SEED SALES IS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1985. IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OR ORDERED SEED WITHIN THE LAST YEAR, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN ORDER BLANK IN THE MAIL IN EARLY OCTOBER. CONTACT EILEEN AT 730-4362 IF YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION.

Deadline for the November-December newsletter is October 15. Newsletter items and autumn migration dates (due Dec. 15) should be sent or phoned to Jo Solem, 10617 Grae Loch Rd., Laurel, MD 20707; Tel. 725-5037.

Lake Elkhorn is surely one of the best birding spots in Howard County for it offers an ample variety of habitats and many interesting birding opportunities. These include numerous warbler species in both spring and fall, some unusual waterbirds possible at any time of the year, sparrows from October through April, feeder birds all winter, and swallows over the lake during the spring and summer.



First, the logistics. Lake Elkhorn is part of Columbia's open space and is encircled by a wide, well-kept blacktop path. Park along the east side of Broken Land Parkway, the south side of Cradlerock, or in the small parking lot at Swan Point off Dockside Lane, if it is open. The paved path allows you to approach birds quietly. No bushwacking is necessary, thus ticks and chiggers are no problem. The path is heavily used, mostly by joggers and bikers who don't appear to disturb the birdlife a great deal. Part-



icularly during migration and the breeding season, bird Elkhorn early in the morning or late in the afternoon. This is especially recommended on bright days. Depending on the quality of birding and the enthusiasm of the birder, covering the lake's good spots takes 1-5 hours. Perhaps 2 1/2 is a good average.

The woods on the south side of the lake is a hot spot for warblers. If you catch a good day during migration you may find up to 20 warbler species in this woods. The real hot spot is in the western half of the woods. Over the years I have totaled 25 species including Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, many Canadas, a probable Mourning, and a few Wilson's in the willows along the shore. Morning light is ideal with good viewing through a thinner middle canopy. Other migrants can be thick here also.

Unusual waterbirds are sometimes seen at Elkhorn. Caspian Terns were recorded in April 1984. A Least Bittern was spotted in the summer of 1981. Bonaparte's Gulls have been seen at least twice in spring. Black-crowned Night-Herons and Great Blue Herons are occasionally seen in spring and summer and grebes in late fall and early winter. Common waterbirds include Mallards, Canada Geese, Spotted and Solitary Sandpipers (in migration), Green Herons and, in winter, Ring-billed Gulls. Following is a calendar with some of the expected birds.

October-February: raptors, ducks, sparrows, finches, blackbirds

March-April: raptors, ducks, sparrows, swallows

Late April-May: raptors, shorebirds, warblers, vireos, flycatchers, swallows, thrushes, etc.

June-August: good breeding birds include Yellow-throated Vireo & Willow Flycatcher

Late August-early October: shorebirds, warblers, vireos, flycatchers, with thrushes, swallows, and sparrows in the latter portion of the period.

Other attractions: Of the three major lakes in Columbia, Elkhorn offers the best possibilities for wildflowers although the area cannot be counted as attractive to botanists as it is to birders. Some of the spring flowers that can be found in wooded patches are Bloodroot, various toothworts, and Spring Beauty.

Summary of 1985 Howard County May Count

Paul A. Zucker

The 1985 Howard County May Count was conducted from 3:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 4. There were 51 participants in 23 parties who spent a total of 138 party hours on foot, 37 by car, 8 at feeders, and 4½ owling. A total of 134 party miles were covered by foot, 584 by car, and 10 owling. Compared to previous years, these totals are almost as high as any we have had. Of particular note is the fact that this year was the first time the entire county has been partitioned with all areas receiving coverage. The weather was clear with cool morning temperatures (40's and foggy) and warm afternoon temperatures (70's). There was a slight breeze in the afternoon.

The unusual species seen on this count (seen three or fewer times on the previous 11 counts) are listed along with the name of the party leader: Cattle Egret (J. Clegg), Blue-winged Teat (Chestem, Rhineland), Red-breasted Merganser (Leumas), Red-headed Woodpecker (Byrnes), and Water Pipit (J. Clegg, McClure). In addition, there were two species seen which had not been found on any of the past 11 counts: Common Goldeneye (Leumas) and Upland Sandpiper (J. Clegg). Several club members checked the area the following day and were able to find the two Upland Sandpipers. Notable absences in this year's tally were Harrier (first time missed in 12 years) and Purple Finch (first time missed in 12 years).

High Count records (compared to the previous 11 counts) were set for 17 species: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Turkey Vulture, American Kestrel, Mourning Dove, American Crow, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, European Starling, Blue-winged Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Common Grackle, Orchard Oriole, and House Finch.

A total of 138 species were identified, which is the median value for the last 12 counts (including 1985). Approximately 13,250 birds were tallied.

Many thanks go to the participants who made the count such a success: Maud Banks, Michael Bjorkman, Bob Bogdan, Monika Botsai, Joe Byrnes, Marty Chestem, Eileen and John Clegg, Chuck Dupree, Jane Farrell, Richard Giannola, Sandy Goolsby, Linda and Steve Harsy, Anne and Ken Hart, Dave Harvey, David Holmes, Mary Janetas, Alice Kretz, Marge Kupiec, Mike Leumas, Spud Loomis, Chris Ludwig, Brigitte Lund, Grazina and Mike McClure, Linda McDaniel, Rosamond Munro, Fran Nahrgang, Bea Newkirk, Jim Orgain, Dave Pardoe, Don and Jan Randle, Fred and Nan Rhineland, Eleanor Robbins, Jo Solem, Chuck and Linda Stirrat, Joe Suess, Ken and Linda Tracey, Mark Wallace, Jack Whyte, Charles Williams, Cathy Williamson, Helen and Wendy Zeichner, and Paul Zucker (compiler). In addition, non-participants who are birding in Howard County on count day are welcome to submit records to the compiler for consideration. Four such records were accepted (no one else saw those species) from Jon E. and Jon K. Boone.

Thanks, too, to Jan and Don Randle for hosting the May Count tally the evening of the count. If you have never participated in May Count, resolve to save all or a portion of the first Saturday in May 1986 for an intensive and enjoyable birding experience. You may take an area alone or (particularly if you are new to birding or to Howard County) you may request assignment to a party led by an experienced individual. You will have the opportunity to see dozens of species; there are always memorable moments even for the most experienced birders. Feeder watchers are always welcome so you can help in that way if you prefer.

HOWARD COUNTY
Maryland Ornithological Society

State-wide May Count, May 4 1985

TOTALS

Loon, Common	2	Sandpiper, Solitary	53	Crow, Am.	470	Ovenbird	106
Grebe, Pied-bill		Spotted	39	Fish	9	Waterthrush, North.	7
Horned		Turnstone, Ruddy		Raven, Common		Louisiana	19
Cormorant, D'ble-c.		Sanderling		Chickadee, Blk.-cap.		Warbler, Kentucky	20
Bittern, American	1	Sandpiper, Semipalm.		Caroline	153	Yellowthroat, Com.	216
Least		Western		Titmouse, Tufted	154	Warbler, Hooded	14
Heron, Grt. Blue	7	Least	10	Nuthatch, Red-brst'd.		Wilson's	
Egret, Great		Pectoral		White-brst'd.	12	Canada	
Snowy		Dunlin		Brown-headed		Chat, Yellow-brst'd.	11
Cattle	1	Dowitcher, Short-bill.		Creepers, Brown		Tanager, Summer	
Heron, Green-backed	7	Snipe, Common	1	Wren, Carolina	64	Scarlet	22
Blk. Crown, Night		Woodcock, American	4	House	85	Cardinal, North.	414
Yel. Crown, Night		Gull, Laughing		Marsh		Grosbeak, Rose-brst'd.	6
Ibis, Glossy		Bonaparte's		Kinglet, Ruby-crown	13	Blue	1
Swan, Tundra		Ring-billed		Bluebird, Eastern	144	Bunting, Indigo	17
Mute	1	Herring		Veery	13	Towhee, Ruf.-side.	106
Goose, Canada	91	Grt. Black-back.		Thrush, Swainson's		Sparrow, Chipping	147
Duck, Wood	23	Tern, Caspian		Hermit	2	Field	52
Teal, Green-wing		Common		Wood	150	Vesper	6
Duck, Am. Black		Forster's		Robin, Am.	724	Savannah	33
Mallard	241	Least		Catbird, Gray	356	Grasshopper	35
Pintail, Northern		Dove, Rock	321	Mockingbird, N.	197	Song	210
Teal, Blue-winged	4	Mourning	439	Thrasher, Brown	32	Swamp	10
Gadwall		Cuckoo, Blk.-bill.		Pipit, Water	36	W.-thrt'd.	228
Duck, Ring-necked		Yellow-billed	1	Waxwing, Cedar	113	W. crowned	14
Scaup, Lesser		Owl, Common Barn		Starling, Eur.	1036	Junco, DE (Slate-color)	
Bufflehead		Eastern Screech	2	Virgo, White-eyed	120	Blackbird, Redwing	769
Merganser, Hooded		Great Horned	1	Solitary	3	Meadowlark, East.	59
Common		Barred	14	Yellow-thrt'd.	13	Blackbird, Rusty	
Red-breasted	3	Nighthawk, Common		Warbling	4	Crackle, Com.	814
Duck, Ruddy		Chuck-will's-widow		Red-ayed	113	Cowbird, Br.-hd.	185
Vulture, Black	23	Whip-poor-will	1	Warbler, Blue-winged	48	Oriole, Orchard	12
Turkey	129	Swift, Chimney	175	Golden-winged		N. (Baltimore)	37
Osprey	5	Hummingbird, Ruby-t.	12	Tennessee	3	Finch, Purple	
Eagle, Bald (Ad) (im.)		Kingfisher, Belted	20	Nashville	1	House	174
HARRIER, Northern		Woodpecker, Red-head.	1	Parula, Northern	58	Siskin, Pine	
Hawk, Sharp-shinned	3	Red-bellied	115	Warbler, Yellow	89	Goldfinch, Am.	454
Cooper's		Sapsucker, Yel.-bel.		Chestnut-sided	11	Grosbeak, Evening	
Red-shouldered	35	Woodpecker, Downy	48	Magnolia	12	Sparrow, House	321
Broad-winged	6	Hairy	6	Cape May	3	Bobolink	558
Red-tailed	17	Flicker, N. (Yel.-s.)	76	Blk.-thrt'd. Blue	16	***Many write-ins should	
Kestrel, Am.	15	Woodpecker, Pileated	6	Yel. Rump (Myrtle)	741	have written details***	
Pheasant, RN	33	Wood Pewee, East.	4	Blk.-thrt'd. Green	16	COM. GOLDENEYE	1
Grouse, Ruffed		Flycatcher, Least		Blackburnian	1	UPLAND SANDPIPER	2
Turkey, Wild		Acadian	5	Yel.-throated	21		
Bobwhite, North.	14	Phoebe, Eastern	39	Pine	1		
Rail, Clapper		Flycatcher, Gt. Crst'd.	9	Prairie	33		
King		Kingbird, E.	76	Palm	3		
Virginia		Lark, Horned		Bay-breasted	1		
Sora		Martin, Purple	56	Blackpoll	1		
Moorhen, Common		Swallow, Tree	64	Black-white	60		
Coot, American		Rough-wing	53	Redstart, Am.	34		
Plover, Blk.-bel.		Bank	1	Warbler, Prothonotary	1		
Semipalm.		Cliff	5	Worm-eating	6	Total Species	138
Killdeer	32	Barn		Cerulean Warbler		Total Individuals	13,251
Yellowlegs, Gt.	2	Jay, Blue	186	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			
Lesser	9				129		

CALENDAR OF PROGRAMS, FIELD TRIPS, AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Dr., Columbia, MD. Meeting is cancelled if schools are closed for any reason. Hospitality session at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/program begins at 8:00 p.m. Club bookstore opens at 7:30 p.m.

Field trips leave from Grempler Realty parking lot (across from the Flier building on Little Patuxent Parkway in Columbia) unless otherwise listed. Car-pooling is encouraged with riders sharing the cost of gas and tolls. Dress for field work with stout, reasonably waterproof footwear and layers of clothes. Trips do not always follow paths. No pets. Leaders may cancel due to inclement weather. If you have questions, contact leaders whose phone numbers are listed or Field Trip Chairman Chris Ludwig at 796-8373.

SEPT. 7 - LAKE ELKHORN, COLUMBIA. Leader: Chris Ludwig, 796-8373. 7:30 a.m.-noon.
Saturday Meet in the parking lot of the Roy Rogers in Dasher Green (on Cradlerock) at 7:30 a.m. (See feature article on Elkhorn in this newsletter.)

SEPT. 12 - "WILDLIFE ART" - John W. Taylor. Mr. Taylor painted the first Maryland
Thursday wildlife conservation stamp and print (Baltimore Oriole) to support the state's endangered and nongame species. His slide presentation will demonstrate how he and other wildlife artists work. Bring your stamps for his autograph. Mr. Taylor has won a number of competitive awards including the initial Maryland Duck Stamp in 1974, again in 1979, and the 1984 Florida Duck Stamp.



SEPT. 15 - AUTUMN WILDFLOWER WALK, SAVAGE PARK. Leader: Bob Solem, 725-5037.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.- noon. Joint trip with Howard chapter of Sierra Club. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Grempler. Bring lunch if you'd like to picnic later. Bring hand lens and field guide if you have them.



SEPT. 21 - ELLICOTT CITY COUNTRY CRAFT DAY. Howard Bird Club display in Tiber
Saturday Place. 11:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. (Rain date Sunday, Sept. 22).

SEPT. 28 - TOWN FAIR, COLUMBIA MALL. Display from 10:00 a.m.- 9:30 p.m. Saturday

OCT. 10 - "ENDANGERED BIRD SPECIES" - Dr. George Gee. Dr. Gee will describe the
Thursday role of Patuxent Wildlife Research Refuge in aiding vanishing species.

OCT. 13 - SANDY POINT STATE PARK. Leader: David Holmes, 730-7083. 7:30 a.m.-
Sunday 2:00 p.m. Meet at Grempler. Bring lunch. Migrant hawks, waterfowl.

OCT. 20 - AUTUMN HABITAT WALK. Leaders: Chuck Dupree, 796-1086 & Bill Eckert.
Sunday Co-sponsored w/Howard Rec. & Parks. This year's series of four seasonal walks will be held on park property in the Columbia Hills/Meadowbrook area, much of which is not yet open to the public. Meet at 12:30 p.m. at Grempler or 1:00 p.m. at the neighborhood park in Columbia Hills.



OCT. 26 - SEED SALE PICKUP. Watch for mailing in early autumn. Saturday.

OCT. 26 - JUG BAY PARK. Joint trip with Anne Arundel MOS chapter. Howard leader:
Saturday Marty Chestem, 730-1527; Anne Arundel: Dottie Mumford. Leave Grempler at 6:30 a.m. or meet at the Annapolis Mall parking lot (near Hecht's) at 7:30 a.m. Bring lunch. 3/4 day. Varied habitat; small museum. If you order seed, make arrangements w/Eileen 730-4362 for pickup.

SEPT. 26 - BOARD MEETING. All officers and committee chairmen. The president
Thursday will advise you of the location. 7:30 p.m.



OUR EGRETS - Jon E. Boone, illustrated by the author

The lakes and fields of Howard County provide fine habitat, particularly during autumn migration, for several large white birds, the Great, Snowy, and Cattle Egrets, and the immature Little Blue Heron. These storkish-looking wading birds are, just what they appear to be: primeval, with an ancient evolutionary lineage and a remarkable expertise as fishermen. Egrets are actually herons, but received the name from French trappers who called their spray of plumes "aigretts." Most egrets are snow-white, particularly in the breeding season. Egrets and herons have especially long legs, fly with their legs straight back, and crook their necks in an S-shaped curve. The area between their eyes and bill, the lores, has no feathers. Their bills are long and slender; the wings are rounded and broad; and flight is usually a steady, rather slow flopping. Sexes look alike. None of the four birds is known to breed here in the county.

The Great Egret (formerly the American or Common Egret) is the largest of the birds described here. Unattached adults will frequently spend July and August feeding around our ponds and streams. Notice the yellow bill, the large size, the black legs and feet. As with the other species, the plume feathers are not bristled and held erect all of the time; in fact, fall migrants often have a sleek, streamlined appearance. Usually, the Great Egret is a very accessible bird. It will permit a close approach and remain standing, quite still, in shallow water, until a meal swims too close.

The Snowy Egret is somewhat smaller and has a black bill which tapers up to yellowish lores. The yellow feet or, as Roger Peterson has called them, "golden slippers," are a diagnostic field mark and fun to seek out. In this county the Snowy is not seen as frequently as the Great Egret.

Earlier this spring, Cattle Egrets appeared in Howard County pastures, feeding alongside the livestock, but never far from a meandering stream. The immature birds are all white, lacking the reddish crown and breast feathers characteristic of adult breeding plumage. It is similar in size to the Snowy Egret, but take note of how stocky this bird is, then check the yellow-orange, relatively thick bill--much bulkier than the rapier-like bill of the Great Egret.

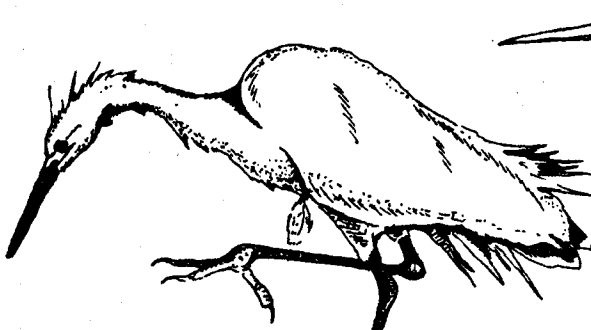
Finally, the late summer diaspora occasionally brings us the immature Little Blue Heron. Again, this is a large, all-white bird. Its legs have a greenish cast. Its bill is blue-gray, but has a prominent black tip.

While I have seen all of these birds in Columbia (and other spots in Howard County) the best place, outside the Eastern Shore, to see them, particularly in the fall, is Lily Pons.

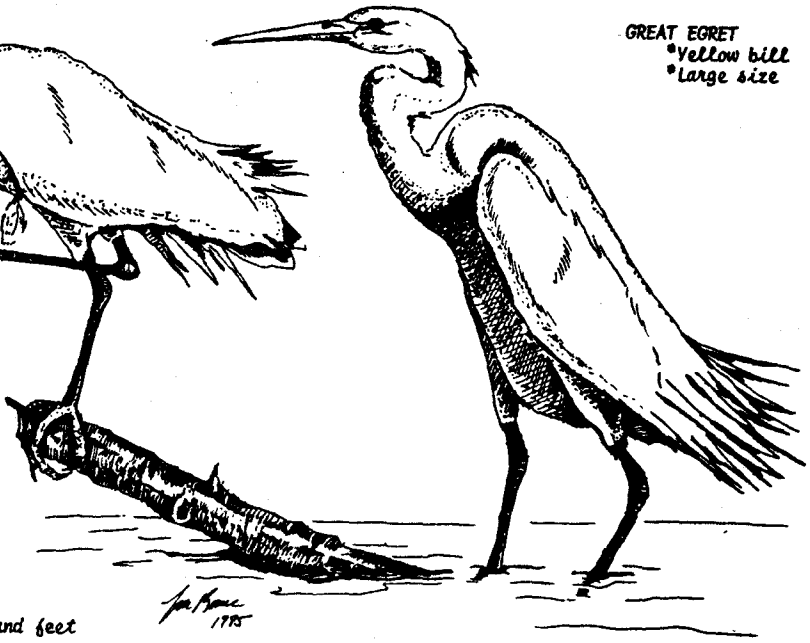
RECYCLING MAKES DOLLARS AND SENSE

Treasurer Don Randle recently received a check in the amount of \$44.15 covering the first two quarters of 1985. This is money earned by club members who recycled aluminum cans, newspapers, and glass at the Athelas Institute, Inc., on the corner of Dobbin Road and McGaw Road on the east side of Columbia. You may choose to take cash for the cans, but newsprint and glass will only be credited to registered groups. Tell them you want your amount credited to the Howard Bird Club and you will be helping to save space in the landfill and to conserve our natural resources as well as benefiting the bird club. You will receive a receipt for tax purposes. Address is 6655 Dobbin Rd. 10-2 Mon.-Fri.; 9-1 Sat. Use the third large doorway on the left side of the building. Thanks to our many faithful recyclers--if you haven't yet started, resolve to begin today.

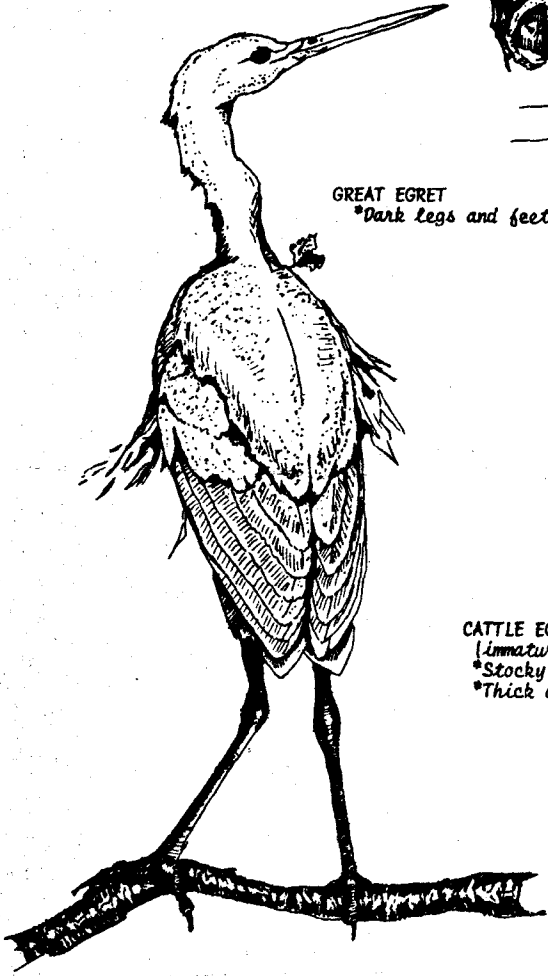
SNOWY EGRET
*Dark bill
*Yellow feet



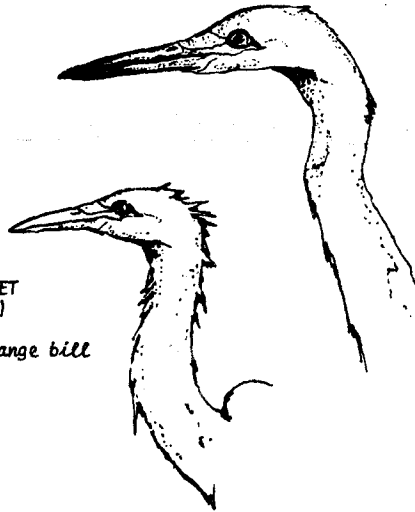
GREAT EGRET
*Yellow bill
*Large size



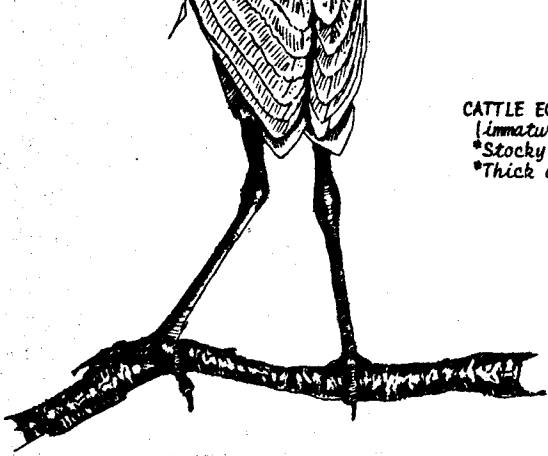
GREAT EGRET
*Dark legs and feet



LITTLE BLUE HERON
(immature)
*Thick bluish bill
with black tip



CATTLE EGRET
(immature)
*Stocky
*Thick orange bill



BUY A MARYLAND ENDANGERED AND NONGAME SPECIES WILDLIFE CONSERVATION STAMP OR PRINT

Support Maryland's endangered and nongame species by purchasing a wildlife print or stamp. The Baltimore Oriole (now Northern Oriole) is depicted on both the print and stamp by artist John W. Taylor. The 1,500 prints (\$35 each) are signed and numbered. The stamps are \$5 each and make a fine gift--for yourself or for someone special. This is the first stamp/print; often the early items are much in demand after the series is a few years along. Mail your check made payable to DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES with your name and address to Department of Natural Resources, Licensing and Consumer Services, P.O. Box 1869, Annapolis, MD 21404-1869. Include \$2.50 postage and handling for each print. Postage is included on stamps.

ELLICOTT CITY FAIR AND COLUMBIA TOWN FAIR COMING - COUNTY FAIR A SUCCESS

On Saturday, Sept. 21 (rain date Sunday, Sept. 22) the Howard Bird Club will have an exhibit in Tiber Place (near the post office) as part of the Ellicott City Country Fair. Stop in to see bird specimens, feeders and chat with knowledgeable individuals. Volunteers are needed and welcome (Call Eileen 730-4362). Nature writer Mary Leister will be in the building to autograph her books. An auction will also be held in the same building so come and join the fun. The following Saturday, Sept. 28, we will participate in the Town Fair at the Columbia Mall. If you can spare a few hours to help man the booth, contact Eileen. If you lack experience she will be glad to pair you with someone who can answer the questions.

The Club thanks Mike McClure for an outstanding job as chairman of the county fair display. He and Grazina were at the fair on at least four occasions overseeing details. As usual, the birds drew a good crowd and we gleaned much useful information for the atlas project and annual cavity nester/bluebird survey. Once again fair week was one of the hottest weeks of the summer so a special thanks to the individuals who worked: Jane & Jack Farrell, Anne & Ken Hart, Jan & Don Randle, the McClures, Martha & Don Waugh, Eileen & John Clegg, Marty Chestem (who also produced an owl poster to aid the atlas), Carole & George Cleland, Linda & Steve Harsy, Jo & Bob Solem.

HOWARD NEWSLETTER CONTAINS NEW FEATURE

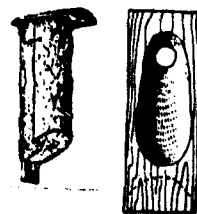
With this issue the newsletter welcomes Chris Ludwig who will be writing a regular feature entitled "Birding 'Hot Spots' in Howard County." Chris also happens to be the Field Trip Chairman this year, has years of field experience, and is an ardent botanist. Because a column of this kind can only be accurate if it draws on years of birding experience by many of the county's active field birders, Chris would like your help. If you would like to contribute material about your favorite birding spot (providing it is available to the public), give him a call evenings at 796-8373. You will, of course, be credited. Eventually, these columns will be compiled into a pamphlet which will be made available to county birders.

BOOST BLUEBIRDS (AND OTHER NATIVE CAVITY NESTERS) PAMPHLET IN PREPARATION

To aid our bluebird and native cavity nesting bird species the Howard Bird Club is preparing an informational pamphlet describing how you can help these species. This material will be sent to all members joining during the 1985-1986 membership year. Bob Bogdan, an enthusiastic trail monitor, is the chairman for our Boost Bluebirds (and Other Native Cavity Nesters) campaign. Enclosed in this newsletter is the annual survey form. Please complete whatever portion you can and return it either to Bob's address or send it along with your dues to the treasurer. You could also bring it to the September 12 meeting. Check with your friends and neighbors and include their totals if they are not reporting the results elsewhere in the county. Please return survey forms by October 15, if possible. Last year's total of 730 bluebirds should certainly be topped this year with a combination of better spring weather, more boxes, and additional individuals reporting. Finely crafted boxes by Cliff Grant are available from the club bookstore. See Steve Harsy at any meeting or call him evenings at 489-5131.



HOWARD BIRD CLUB BLUEBIRD/CAVITY NESTER SURVEY
Howard County Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society



Please report results for Howard County boxes and natural cavities only.

Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____ Zip _____

Location of nesting box(es) or trail (if different from above address) _____

EASTERN BLUEBIRDS

Total number of boxes monitored _____
Total number of boxes used by bluebirds _____
Total number of bluebird eggs laid (if known) _____
Total number of bluebirds fledged* (estimate if number not known) _____

CAVITY NESTING SPECIES OTHER THAN BLUEBIRDS USING NESTING BOXES OR NATURAL CAVITIES

List number of young fledged, if known; place estimates in parens (); or just check.

	Box	Natural Cavity		Box	N.Cavity
Carolina Chickadee	_____	_____	Purple Martin	_____	_____
Tufted Titmouse	_____	_____	Woodpecker	_____	_____
White-br. Nuthatch	_____	_____	Northern Flicker	_____	_____
Tree Swallow	_____	_____	Wood Duck	_____	_____
House Wren	_____	_____	Common Barn-Owl	_____	_____
Carolina Wren	_____	_____	American Kestrel	_____	_____
Grt. Crstd. Flycatcher	_____	_____	Barred Owl	_____	_____
Eastern Screech-Owl	_____	_____	Other	_____	_____

Number of eggs _____ and young _____ lost from boxes? Species? _____

Number, in descending order of importance, the box/cavity predator, if known.

_____ Raccoon	_____ Squirrel	_____ Chipmunk	_____ Weather
_____ Cat	_____ Wren	_____ Vandals	_____ Flying Squirrel
_____ Snake	_____ House Sparrow	_____ Blowflies	_____ Other _____

HOUSE SPARROWS AND EUROPEAN STARLINGS ARE NOT PROTECTED BY STATE OR FEDERAL LAW. They are a menace to native cavity nesting birds. Use any legal means to prevent their nesting.

Number of House Sparrows (including eggs, young, & adults) destroyed _____

Number of European Starlings (eggs, young & adults) destroyed _____

In order to make this annual survey as complete and accurate as possible, please talk to friends and neighbors and include results from their nesting boxes if no one else is reporting them. Use additional sheets of paper as needed. You do not need to be a member of the Howard Bird Club to participate in this effort to aid our native cavity nesting birds. Survey forms may be returned to the treasurer at the time you return your membership application or may be mailed directly to BOB BOGDAN, 4830 Rollintop Road, Ellicott City, MD 21043, by October 15th. Those who return survey forms will automatically receive a form late next summer.

Please monitor boxes during the next breeding season so that reports will be as accurate as possible. Monitoring (briefly looking inside the box) will not cause the birds to desert if it is done quickly and no more than once a day.

*fledged means a young bird which has left the nesting box successfully

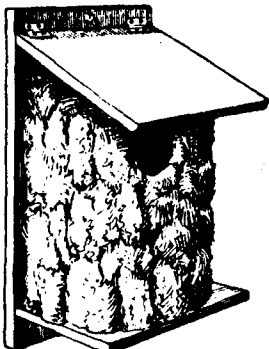
MOS MEMBER CHALLENGES MEMBERSHIP WITH \$2900 DONATION

MOS President Tony White recently announced that an anonymous donor has promised to contribute \$2900 to the state organization if the membership can double that amount by contributing \$5800 by November 15, 1985. Gifts (which are entirely tax-deductible) can be sent directly to State Treasurer Emily Joyce, 1550 Ellsworth Ave., Crofton, MD 21114, along with a note that they are donated as part of the challenge grant. Money from this grant goes to support the state sanctuary system, the scholarship program, and the breeding bird atlas project. (Jane Geuder from the Howard chapter was the recipient of a scholarship this year. A summary of her experiences will appear in an upcoming newsletter.)

MOS RESEARCH COMMITTEE WILL AWARD TWO GRANTS-IN-AID NEXT YEAR

The State MOS Research Committee will award two grants-in-aid next year for a maximum of \$500 each. They can be used for ornithological research anywhere in the state or ecological research at one of our sanctuaries. The deadline for receipt of proposals is January 15, 1986. For further information, contact Margaret H. Jones, Chairman Research Committee, Route 1, Box 325, Golts, MD 21637; telephone 1-648-5235.

Howard Bird Club
10617 Grae Loch Rd.
Laurel, MD 20707



Bob Bogdan
4830 Rollington Road
Ellicott City, MD 21043

MEMBERSHIP FORM - HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER, MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 ZIP _____
 TELEPHONE _____ AGE (Student) _____

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

Husband & Wife/Couple.....	12.50
Adult (individual).....	9.00
Student (up to age 18).....	1.50
Student (over age 18).....	5.00
Sustaining.....	15.00
Life.....	200.00
Senior Couple (age 65 & over)	8.50
Senior Adult (age 65 & over).	6.00
Howard Co. Chapter dues (if a	4.00
life or member of another MOS chapter)	
Renewal	
New Membership	

MEMBERSHIP YEAR: SEPTEMBER 1 - AUGUST 31

Checks should be made payable to Howard Co. Chapter--MOS and mailed to the treasurer:

Donald Randle, Treasurer
 6424 Lochridge Road
 Columbia, MD 21044 Tel. 531-6296

QUESTIONNAIRE (Please complete and mail with your dues) NAME _____
 TELEPHONE _____

- Although my time is limited, I would be willing to help in the following ways:
- Participate in bird and flower surveys and counts: Breeding Bird Atlas, May Count, Winter bird surveys, Wildflower surveys. I would be willing to be responsible for a particular area. I prefer to bird alone. I prefer to go with someone or (if a leader) I would like others assigned to me.
 - Monitor bluebird/cavity nester boxes.
 - Serve on the Membership Services Committee: help with hospitality at one monthly meeting, periodically, for special events such as annual potluck; help with publicity; help with the seed sales.
 - "Man" club exhibit at mall and fair (put me with an experienced birder).
 - Telephone --Rare Bird Alert, etc.
 - Assist with Bookstore; Typing; Newsletter.
 - Allow my yard/land to be a stop on a feeder/field trip
 - Lead a field trip
 - Help to plan monthly programs
 - Assist with the Conservation Committee: telephone club members or legislators, write letters, research problems, attend hearings or workshops on single issue topics, donate time to work on outdoor projects.
 - Help with graphics, layout & design of brochures, displays & publications.
 - Other ways I might help _____

RARE BIRD ALERT

- Be sure my name is on the Rare Bird Alert. (Unlisted phone number must be listed here _____). No contact is made by mail.)
- The best time of day to reach me is _____
- You may call me at the following business number _____
- I am interested in observing hawk and owl banding; bluebird banding.

If you sight a rare bird in the county, contact Bea Newkirk 498-1902 who is in charge of the Alert. Be prepared to give precise directions in order for others to locate the bird(s). Please call one of the following individuals if you are unsure of the identification: David Holmes 730-7083; Marty Chestem 730-1527; Jo Solem 725-5037. Any bird which is listed as accidental or hypothetical on the Preliminary Check-list of the Birds of Howard County 1956-1984 (sent in the May-June 1985 newsletter) should be put on the Alert, if possible, as well as any bird which does not yet appear on the list. A species which has been seen fewer than a dozen years is probably of interest to many birders, as well as any unusual concentrations of more common species.

My favorite birding spots in Howard County are _____

HOWARD BIRD CLUB
10617 Grae Loch Rd.
Laurel, MD 20707

